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Prevention of an arms race in outer space

Proposed programme budget for the biennium 2018–2019

Further practical measures for the prevention of an arms race in outer space

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.1/72/L.54

Statement submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly

I. Introduction

1. At its 25th meeting, on 30 October 2017, the First Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.1/72/L.54 by a recorded vote of 121 to 5, with 45 abstentions. A statement of the programme budget implications of the draft resolution was before the Committee (A/C.1/72/L.60).

II. Requests contained in the draft resolution

2. Under the terms of operative paragraphs 3, 4, 5 and 6 of draft resolution A/C.1/72/L.54, the General Assembly would:

(a) Request the Secretary-General to establish a United Nations Group of Governmental Experts, with a membership of up to 25 Member States chosen on the basis of fair and equitable geographical representation, to consider and make recommendations on substantial elements of an international legally binding instrument on the prevention of an arms race in outer space, including, inter alia, on the prevention of the placement of weapons in outer space;

(b) Decide that the newly established Group of Governmental Experts will operate by consensus, without prejudice to national positions in future negotiations, and hold two 2-week sessions in Geneva, one in 2018 and the other in 2019;

(c) Request the Chair of the Group of Governmental Experts to organize, in New York, a two-day open-ended intersessional informal consultative meeting, in

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2019, so that all Member States can engage in interactive discussions and share their views on the basis of a report on the work of the Group to be provided by the Chair in his own capacity;

(d) Request the Secretary-General to transmit the report of the Group of Governmental Experts to the General Assembly at its seventy-fourth session and to the Conference on Disarmament prior to its 2020 session.

III. Relationship of the proposed requests to the biennial programme plan and priorities for the period 2018–2019 and to the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2018–2019

3. The requested activities referred to in the draft resolution relate to programme 1, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management, programme 3, Disarmament, and programme 25, Management and support services, of the biennial programme plan and priorities for the period 2018–2019 (A/71/6/Rev.1), and section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management, section 4, Disarmament, and section 29F, Administration, Geneva, of the programme budget for the biennium 2018–2019 (A/72/6 (Sect. 2), A/72/6 (Sect. 4) and A/72/6 (Sect. 4/Corr.1), and A/72/6 (Sect. 29F), respectively).

IV. Activities by which the proposed requests would be implemented

4. Pursuant to the request contained in operative paragraphs 3 and 4 of the draft resolution, it is envisaged that the United Nations Group of Governmental Experts would hold two sessions of two weeks each in Geneva (one in 2018 and one in 2019) comprising 20 meetings (10 days) each. The aforementioned 40 meetings (20 ays) would require interpretation in the six official languages and would constitute an addition to the meetings workload for the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management in the biennium 2018–2019. This would entail additional resource requirements for meetings services in the amount of $376,000 in the biennium 2018–2019. In addition, a provision of $14,200 would be required for a sound technician and recording services for the session in Geneva under section 29F, Administration, Geneva.

5. Pursuant to the request contained in operative paragraph 5 of the draft resolution, it is also envisaged that the Chair of the United Nations Group of Governmental Experts would hold a two-day open-ended informal consultative meeting in New York in 2019 for a total of four meetings (two days), so that all Member States can engage in interactive discussions and share their views on the basis of a report on the work of the Group to be provided by the Chair in his own capacity. The aforementioned meetings would require interpretation in all six official languages and would constitute an addition to the meetings workload for the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management in 2019, which would entail additional resource requirements for meetings services in 2019 in the amount of $24,000.

6. Furthermore, the request for documentation contained in operative paragraphs 3, 4, 5 and 6 of the draft resolution would constitute an addition to the documentation workload for the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management of 7 pre-session documents (totalling 9,000 words) and 2 post-session

documents (10,700 words each) to be issued in all six official languages as well as 50 in-session documents (totalling 50,000 words) for reproduction and distribution only. This would entail additional resource requirements for documentation services in the amount of $130,100.

7. In addition, it is estimated that a total amount of $450,000 would be required under section 4, Disarmament, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2018–2019 to cover the travel costs, daily subsistence allowance and terminal expenses of up to 25 State representatives to attend the sessions in 2018 and 2019, as well as the costs of the services of a consultant to provide technical and substantive support to the substantive servicing of the work of the United Nations Group of Governmental Experts during the biennium 2018–2019.

V. Modifications required in the programme of work and the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2018–2019

8. To meet the provisions of the draft resolution, the outputs under section 4, Disarmament, of the programme budget for the biennium 2018–2019 would need to be amended in respect of activities during the implementation of the budget, as follows:

(a) Subprogramme 1: Multilateral negotiations and deliberations on disarmament and arms limitation

Table 4.13

In table 4.13, under "Servicing of intergovernmental and expert bodies, and reports thereto (regular budget/extrabudgetary)", add:

"*Group of Governmental Experts to consider and make recommendations on substantial elements of an international legally-binding instrument on the prevention of an arms race in outer space, including on the prevention of the placement of weapons in outer space*

Substantive servicing of meetings

54. Meetings of the Group of Governmental Experts (40);

55. Meetings of the open-ended informal consultations (4);

Parliamentary documentation

56. Pre-session documents (7)

57. In-session documents (50)

58. Post-session documents (2)"

VI. Financial implications of the proposals

9. Additional one-time resource requirements in the amount of $994,300 under section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management, section 4, Disarmament, and section 29F, Administration, Geneva, would be required under the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2018–2019 to implement the additional workload. The details of these additional resource requirements are provided in the table below.

(United States dollars)

	Resource requirements
Section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management	
Simultaneous interpretation	400 000
Pre-session documentation	36 500
In-session documentation	13 000
Post-session documentation	80 600
Subtotal, section 2	**530 100**
Section 4, Disarmament	
Consultants	50 000
Travel of experts	400 000
Subtotal, section 4	**450 000**
Section 29F, Administration, Geneva	
Sound technician/recording services	14 200
Subtotal, section 29F	**14 200**
Total	**994 300**

VII. Potential for absorption during the biennium 2018–2019

10. No provisions have been made in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2018–2019 for the implementation of the activities requested in operative paragraphs 3, 4, 5 and 6 of the draft resolution. It is not possible at present to identify activities within the relevant sections of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2018–2019 that could be terminated, deferred, curtailed or modified during the biennium. It is therefore necessary that one-time resource requirements in the amount of $994,300 be provided through an additional appropriation for the biennium 2018–2019.

VIII. Contingency fund

11. Under the procedures established by the General Assembly in its resolutions 41/213 and 42/211, a contingency fund is established for each biennium to accommodate additional expenditures derived from legislative mandates not provided for in the programme budget.

IX. Conclusion and action required of the General Assembly

12. **Should the General Assembly adopt draft resolution A/C.1/72/L.54, additional resource requirements in the amount of $994,300, including $530,100 under section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management, $450,000 under section 4, Disarmament, and $14,200 under section 29F, Administration, Geneva, would arise under the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2018–2019. The amount of $994,300 would require an additional appropriation for the biennium 2018–2019 to be approved by the Assembly and, as such, would represent a charge against the contingency fund.**